

NURSING ECHOES.

We have just received word from Miss A. Schwarzenberg (Executive Secretary of the International Council of Nurses) that a Memorial Service for the late Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be held on the first day of the Congress, *i.e.*, on Sunday afternoon, May 11th, 1947, the time to be announced later. We are very grateful to our American Colleagues for this gesture of homage to our late President and Founder of the International, and we shall be there.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 134 nurses to be Queen's Nurses; 105 in England; one in Wales; 24 in Scotland; and four in Northern Ireland.

On April 23rd, St. George's Day, a beautiful Memorial Tablet was unveiled in St. George's Hospital Chapel, to the honour of those Nurses and Doctors of St. George's Hospital who gave their lives in the Great World War. The Tablet, which represents St. George of England slaying the Dragon, was unveiled by the retiring Matron, Miss Helen Hanks, in the presence of the Bishop of St. Albans and the Archbishop Designate of Perth, Australia, who dedicated the plaque.

A Reunion for past and present Nursing Officers, Regular and Reserve of the Royal Air Force Nursing Service, will be held in London on Saturday, June 21st at 4 p.m. Any Nursing officer desirous of attending should apply before May 31st to the Matron-in-Chief, Air Ministry, Kingsway, London W.C.2, for a ticket, enclosing 5s. 6d. for the cost of the ticket, which is the only means of admission.

All but eleven out of 163 candidates passed the preliminary examination in the Ministry of Health's Intensive Nursing Courses for ex-Service personnel. Only two students failed both parts of the examination, and candidates from Liverpool and Manchester training centres achieved 100 per cent. successes.

This shortened course enables ex-Servicemen and women who have had experience as nursing orderlies to qualify for State registration in one year instead of three; and the preliminary examination at the end of the first three months is the same as that completed by the ordinary student nurse at the end of her first year.

The remarkably high percentage of passes is a tribute to the Sister Tutors and to the determination of these ex-Service candidates to qualify as nurses in the shortest possible time.

All are continuing their training and the few who failed will have another chance to take the examination.

Altogether 537 ex-Service personnel—364 men and 173 women—are at present taking these intensive courses at the 16 training centres.

Editor's Note.—On reading through the above, we note with fear and surprise that the Profession of Nursing, so long considered to be the pride and glory of the female Sex, is passing into the hands of the male Sex. Women are now the industrial workers whilst the men will rock the cradles. No wonder we are facing a slow decline in population.

This year, Geranium Day, on which the only street collection for the Civilian Blind of Greater London was arranged, and held on April 1st, when it is hoped the generosity of the public was aroused to help the less fortunate amongst us who have been deprived of the blessed gift of sight.

The Summer School of the Nurses Christian Movement will be held on June 14th to 21st, at Bramhope Manor, near Leeds, Yorkshire (Bramhope Village is in Wharfedale, six miles from Leeds, an ideal starting-point for rambles and excursions on the Moors).

Accommodation and cost. There are no single rooms. In the Manor House, rooms for two to five persons, £3 19s. each. In the Youth Annexe, dormitories with camp beds, £2 18s. each.

Please apply by letter to Miss Topping, 3, Cromwell Place, London, S.W.7, enclosing registration fee of 5s.

It is indeed good news to learn that part of the £35,000—£40,000 bequest, which he receives under the will of Miss Hammerton (for many years a generous benefactress of Charing Cross Hospital), Lord Inman, Lord Privy Seal, in his scheme to devote part of the bequest to making gifts to a number of charitable objects—remembers old people, preferably retired nurses.

In his proposal that part of the bequest should go towards the cost of a home for old people and preferably for retired nurses—Lord Inman makes a profoundly human gesture. It is more than distressing to realise that colleagues who have spent all their lives in devotion to the sick should, as we know is the case, be deprived of a haven of rest in the evening of their lives.

In a thrilling editorial from *The American Journal of Nursing* we learn of the good times which our cousins across the Atlantic are preparing for the Nurses from all parts of the world who are attending the I.C.N.

The Washington (D.C.) Committee has been most generous in its entertainment of the Board of Directors. Mrs. Truman, wife of the President, received them at the White House, which was the high spot of their week. During the Congress, picnics and little dinners, musical evenings and dances have been arranged, and we think that the American Nurses are trying to break the record for hospitality set up by the British Nurses in 1937. They are expecting 10,000 Nurses in Atlantic City.

They have also generously catered for Nurses speaking foreign languages. Two hundred Nurses, each speaking English and one or two other languages, will attend to act as interpreters.

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The success of The Hospital Service Plan, introduced five years ago by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London under the Chairmanship of Sir Bernard Docker, K.B.E., and Dr. W. Russell Brain, F.R.C.S., to enable provision to be made for the cost of serious illness, enables it to again offer increased benefits. An additional £1 1s. per week; cover for tonsillectomy previously excluded; and to meet everyone's circumstances, a choice of three different schemes.

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